

**Amendments to the Claims:**

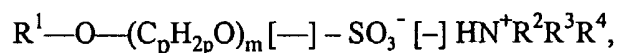
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (previously amended): A microemulsion comprising:

- (A) 0.5 to 70% by weight of the alkanolammonium salts of alkylsulfates and alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:



wherein

$R^1$  is a  $C_8$ - to  $C_{20}$ -hydrocarbon residue,

$p$  is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein  $p$  can be different for each  $m$ ,

$R^2$  is H, a  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ -alkyl, or a  $C_2$ - to  $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl,

$R^3$  is H, a  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ -alkyl, or a  $C_2$ - to  $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl,

$R^4$  is a  $C_2$ - to  $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl, and

$m$  is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

- (B) 20 to 95% by weight water;

- (C) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one oil component; and

- (D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one mono- or polyvalent  $C_2$ - to  $C_{24}$ -alcohol,

each based on the total composition of the microemulsion.

12. (previously presented): The microemulsion according to claim 11, wherein the

alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates comprise the following residue or indices:

$R^1$  is a linear or saturated  $C_{12}$ - to  $C_{16}$ -alkyl residue,

$p$  is 2 or 3, wherein  $p$  can be different for each  $m$ ,

$R^2$  is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

$R^3$  is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

$R^4$  is hydroxyisopropyl, and

$m$  is an integer from 0 to 2.

13. **(previously presented):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the microemulsion contains component

(A) in an amount of 2 to 60% by weight,

(B) in an amount of 30 to 80% by weight,

(C) in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight, and

(D) in an amount of 0.1 to 9% by weight.

14. **(previously presented):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, further containing at least one of the following components:

(E) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one surfactant,

(F) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one electrolyte, and

(G) 0 to 10% by weight of at least one additive, wherein ~~(E)~~ (F) and ~~(F)~~ (G) are exclusive of any ionic surfactant.

15. **(previously presented):** The microemulsion according to claim 14, containing at least one of the following components:
- (E) at least one additional surfactant comprising a triglyceride alkoxylated with ethyleneoxide and/or propyleneoxide and at least partially esterified with a C<sub>6</sub>- to C<sub>22</sub>-fatty acid, and
  - (G) at least one additive comprising a poly(C<sub>2</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub>-)alkyleneglycol having a molecular weight of up to 1,500 g/mole.
16. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to any one of [the] claims 11 and 12, wherein the oil component (C) contains one or more components selected from the group consisting of lecithins; mono-, di-, and/or triglycerides of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 8 to 24 carbon atoms; branched and/or linear hydrocarbons; waxes; petroleum jelly; paraffin oils; polyolefins; silicone oils; esters of saturated, unsaturated, and/or aromatic, branched ~~The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of~~ and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear alcohols having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms.
17. **(previously presented):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the microemulsion is a stable and transparent emulsion, the disperse phase thereof having an average particle size of less than 100 nm.

18. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to ~~any one of~~ Claims 11 and 12 characterized in that  $R_4$  is a  $C_3$ -hydroxyalkyl.
19. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to Claims 18 characterized in that  $R_4$  is ~~a hydroxyalkyl~~ hydroxyisopropyl.